

Remarks/Arguments

This invention relates to interworking between a wireless local area network and a mobile communications system. This invention improves the efficiency of communication involving a mobile communications system and a WLAN, by using the WLAN for transferring data signals, and using the mobile communications system for transferring control signals.

Claims 1 to 14 are directed to a method for supporting an interworking between a wireless local area network and a mobile communications system. Claims 15 to 22 are directed to an apparatus for supporting an interworking between a wireless local area network and mobile communications network. Newly submitted Claims 23 to 27 are directed to a mobile terminal including means for establishing data communications between the mobile terminal and a gateway general packet radio service support node via an interworking function, and means for establishing signaling communications between said mobile terminal and a gateway general packet radio service support node via a universal mobile telephone telecommunications system terrestrial radio access network and a serving GPRS support node.

The Examiner has cited US patent 7,042,855 to Gilchrist et al. This reference relates to a method for routing data, in which traffic within a local network is routed through a base station system without going through a packet data gateway. The Examiner has pointed to column 9, line 42 to column 10, line 11. Nowhere does the reference show or suggest:

"establishing at least one Tunneling Protocol -User plane tunnel between the IWF and the second Support Node for transferring data signals; and

establishing at least one Tunneling Protocol --
control plane tunnel between the first Support Node
and the Second Support Node for transferring control signals",

as specifically recited in Claim 1. Rather, the reference transfers data among local mobile stations through LAN 817. Nowhere does the reference separately transfer data and control signals, as specifically recited in Claim 1.

The Examiner has pointed to column 9, line 42, to column 10 line 11, of Gilchrist et al. Nowhere is there any teaching or suggestion of two separate tunnels, one for data and one for control signals. Rather, the reference shows local routing of data packets between mobile stations which are in local network 810, without intervention from SGSN 803. It is therefore clear that the patentability of Claim 1 is not affected by Gilchrist et al.

Similarly, nowhere does Gilchrist et al show or suggest:

"means for establishing at least one tunneling
Protocol-User Plane Tunnel between the IWF and the
second Support Node for transferring data signals; and

means for establishing at least one Tunneling
Protocol-Control plane tunnel between the first support
node and the second support node for transferring control signals.",

as specifically recited in Claim 15. It is therefore clear that Gilchrist et al does not affect the patentability of Claim 15.

The Examiner has cited US patent 7,054,945 to Hurtta et al against some of the sub claims. Hurtta et al relates to a method of providing an announcement in which a second-level network element plays an announcement to a first level element. Nowhere does the reference show or suggest transferring control and data signals on two different tunnels. It is therefore clear that even if the disclosure of

Hurtta et al were to be added to the disclosure of Gilchrist et al, the patentability of Claims 1 and 15 would not be affected.

Claims 2 to 14 are dependent from Claim 1, and add further advantageous features. The Applicants submit that these subclaims are patentable as their parent Claim 1.

Similarly, Claims 16 to 22 are dependent from Claim 15 and add further advantageous features. The Applicants submit that these subclaims are patentable as their parent Claim 15.

Newly submitted Claims 23 to 27 are directed to a mobile terminal including;

" means for establishing data communications between said mobile terminal and a gateway general packet radio service support node via an interworking function, and

means for establishing signaling communications between said mobile terminal and a gateway general packet radio service support node via a universal mobile telecommunications system terrestrial radio access network and a serving GPRS support node",

as specifically recited in Claim 23. The Applicants submit that Claim 23 is patentable for the same reasons as set forth above with regard to Claims 1 and 15.

Claims 24 to 27 are dependent from Claim 23 and add further advantageous features. The Applicants submit that claims 23 to 27 are patentable as their parent Claim 23.

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 12 and 13. The Applicants submit that the other claims are allowable as well.

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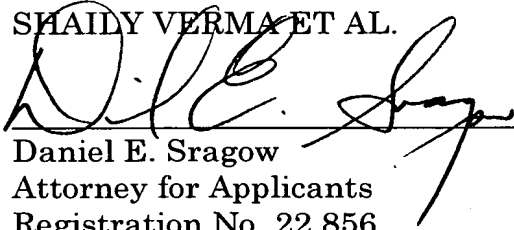
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Please charge the \$1050 fee for the three month extension, and the \$250 fee for the 5 additional claims, and any other costs that may be associated with the filing of this response, to Deposit Account No. 07-0832.

The Applicants submit that the instant application is now in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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